

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): A third information processing apparatus provided on a network and performing rent-out of an address, said third information processing apparatus comprising:

an Internet Protocol (IP) address pool including rent-out virtual IP addresses;

a receiver that receives a virtual IP address rent-out request from a first information processing apparatus, the virtual IP address rent-out request including an original real IP address of a second information processing apparatus;

a storage that stores correspondence information having a correspondence relationship among an original real IP address of said first information processing apparatus, a rent-out virtual IP address, and said original real IP address of said second information processing apparatus included in said virtual IP address rent-out request; and

a transmitter that transmits said a rent-out virtual IP address to said first information processing apparatus,

wherein said first information processing apparatus sends communication packets to said second information processing apparatus, said communication packets including said rent-out virtual IP address as a source address, and said original real IP address of said second information processing apparatus as a destination address.

wherein, in response to an inquiry from said second information processing apparatus, said third information processing apparatus notifies said second information processing apparatus, with encrypted communication, of said original real IP address of said first information processing apparatus—, and

wherein permission to issue said notification is given when said correspondence information has a correspondence information of said original real IP address of said second information processing apparatus and said original real IP address of said first information processing apparatus, and no permission is given to said notification when said correspondence information does not have a correspondence information of said original real IP address of said information processing apparatus and said original real IP address of said first information processing apparatus.

4. – 7. (canceled).